

SUBJECT Collection of Monazite in North Korea

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25X11. On 7 October 1949, Soviet representative Shtykov in North Korea requested KIM Il-song to arrange for collection of a large (unspecified) quantity of monazite* for export to the USSR. After conferring with Vice-Premier and Minister of Industry KIM Ch'aek (金策) and other officials, KIM Il-song issued an order on 15 October to province, city, county, township, and village committees, requiring each man to collect fifteen kilograms of monazite. Between the date of the order and April 1950, each man was to spend at least twenty days seeking this material in river sands.

2. Collections were slow, however, according to a survey conducted 17 November, largely because most persons were unable either to recognize or extract the material. The government therefore ordered the Industrial Section to issue explanations of the program and instructions for carrying it out. As part of this public education campaign, CHO Chang-ho (趙將浩), a graduate of the Seoul Technical School, asked for technical assistance for the program from the analytical laboratories of the Sadong (壽洞) Naval Coal Mine, the Sung Ho Ri (勝湖里) Cement Plant, and the Pyongyang Kiri Ri Industrial Laboratory.

25X1 Comment: Monazite, which contains a small amount of thorium is the chief material for conversion to Uranium 233.

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